UNITED NATIONS

Framework Convention on Climate Change

Distr.
GENERAL

FCCC/SB/1997/5
16 May 1997

Original: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION
Sixth session
Bonn, 28 July - 5 August 1997
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Sixth session
Bonn, 28 July - 5 August 1997
Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES INCLUDED IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION

Tentative schedule of the in-depth review of the second national communications of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

Note by the secretariat

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 5	1
A.	Mandate	1 - 3	3
B.	Scope of the note	4	4
C.	Possible action by subsidiary bodies	5	4

		Paragraphs	Page
II.	OUTLINE OF THE SCHEDULE	6 - 12	4
	A. Assumptions	6	4
	B. Suggested outline	7 - 8	4
	C. Review procedure	9 - 12	5

Annex

First national communications from Annex I Parties: Review visit dates ... 6

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties, at its first session (COP 1), by its decision 2/CP.1,[1] established the process for the review of first communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (hereinafter referred to as "Annex I Parties"), including provisions for the in-depth review of first national communications[2] from such Parties. In its decision 3/CP.1, the COP provided guidance on the preparation and submission of national communications by Annex I Parties.

2. The Conference of the Parties, at its second session (COP 2), by its decision 9/CP.2,[3] requested Annex I Parties to submit their second national communication by 15 April 1997. For those Parties which were due to submit the first communication in 1996, an update of this communication was to be submitted by the same date; second national communications by Parties with economies in transition should in principle be submitted not later than 15 April 1998. By the same decision, COP 2 requested the secretariat to apply procedures for the review, including in-depth reviews, as defined in decision 2/CP.1, to second national communications from Annex I Parties; the in-depth reviews are to be completed before the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties.

3. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its fifth session, requested the secretariat to prepare a work plan, including a tentative schedule of the in-depth review of the second national communications of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention. Such a work plan should, *inter alia*, include a schedule for the preparation and distribution of the in-depth review for each Party, subject to modification in response to requests by the Parties concerned (see document FCCC/SBSTA/1997/4).

B. Scope of the note

4. The present note contains a suggested outline schedule of the in-depth review of the second national communications from Annex I Parties based on the actual dates of the reviews of the first national communications.

---

[1] For decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first session, see document FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1.

[2] This term includes communications from the regional economic integration organization included in Annex I to the Convention.

[3] For decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second session, see document FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1.

C. Possible action by the subsidiary bodies

5. The subsidiary bodies are invited to consider this note and provide guidance to the secretariat on the proposed outline of the schedule of the in-depth review of the second national communications from Annex I Parties, with the aim of considering a detailed schedule at the next session of the subsidiary bodies.

II. OUTLINE OF THE SCHEDULE

A. Assumptions

6. It is assumed in the present note that the time available for the review of the second communications from Annex I Parties will be two years, with the final results of this review to be made available to the extent possible for COP 5. The present note does not attempt to anticipate any changes to the review process which might be entailed by the outcome of negotiations on the Berlin Mandate.

B. Suggested outline

7. The proposed outline of the review schedule for second communications from Annex I Parties follows the pattern of the review of first communications (see annex).

8. The following outline for the second review[4] is suggested:

(a) At the end of 1997 three Parties: Canada, Sweden, United States of America;

(b) In the first half of 1998 eleven Parties: Australia, Austria, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) In the second half of 1998 eleven Parties: Czech Republic, European Community, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal;

(d) In the first half of 1999 nine Parties: Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Ukraine[5].

---

[4] The secretariat intends to review the first communication from Belgium, which was received on 21 March 1997, at the end of 1997.

[5] Entry into force on 11 August 1997; first communication to be received and reviewed.

C. Review procedure

9. Decision 2/CP.1 in paragraph 3 (c) states that the review teams should conduct their work through in-depth "paper" reviews; if deemed helpful, visits to clarify the communications, with the prior approval of the Party concerned, might also be useful (FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1). By its decision 9/CP.2, COP 2 decided that the review process should be continued in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties (FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1).

10. During the review of the first communications review teams were invited to visit all the Annex I Parties that submitted their communication in 1994-1996.[6] The secretariat will seek to obtain similar invitations in conducting future reviews. Other reviews would be conducted "on paper" at the site of the secretariat; this would involve interaction with the Party concerned by telephone or by electronic means. In-depth review reports on the second national communication of each Annex I Party would be prepared and published irrespective of whether a visit took place or not.

11. It may be noted that the cost to the Convention budget of a paper review would include travel by experts to the site of the secretariat; financial savings would arise in the travel of secretariat staff. There may also be saving in expert travel costs of the same team of experts undertaking more than one paper review.

12. Annex I Parties are invited to send to the secretariat by 15 September 1997 an indication of which quarter (or preferably month) during 1997-99 they would be prepared to receive the visit of a review team, or reply to its requests. The detailed schedule for the preparation and distribution of the in-depth review reports for each Annex I Party, based on the replies received by 15 September 1997 and consultations with the Parties concerned, will be made available by the secretariat during the seventh session of the subsidiary bodies.

---

[6] The Secretariat intends to present a report on experience with the review process of the first national communications to the seventh sessions of the subsidiary bodies in October 1997.

ANNEX

FIRST NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM ANNEX I PARTIES: REVIEW VISIT DATES

Party	Review visit dates	Party	Review visit dates
Australia	26-30.06.95	**Japan**	03-07.07.95
Austria	04-07.12.95	**Latvia**	13-14.05.96
Bulgaria	01-04.10.96	**Luxembourg**	13-16.11.96
Canada	29.05-02.06.95	**Netherlands**	20-24.11.95
Czech Republic	02-05.05.95	**New Zealand**	03-07.07.95
Denmark	14-18.08.95	**Norway**	23-27.10.95
E.C.	10-15.11.96	**Poland**	25-29.03.96
Estonia	16-17.05.96	**Portugal**	09-13.09.96
Finland	29.01-02.02.96	**Romania**	07-11.10.96
France	17-21.06.96	**Russian Federation**	22-26.04.96
Germany	20-24.11.95	**Slovakia**	02-06.06.96
Greece	08-11.04.97	**Spain**	25-29.09.95
Hungary	24-29.11.96	**Sweden**	13-17.03.95
Iceland	09-13.09.96	**Switzerland**	11-14.09.95
Ireland	29.01-02.02.96	**United Kingdom**	09-13.10.95
Italy	11-15.11.96	**United States**	22-26.05.95

- - - - -